

# Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

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## Welcome!

Thanks for subscribing to Vax Facts, the North Carolina Immunization Branch's e-newsletter. We hope this will help us stay connected to immunization providers across North Carolina. Feel free to share this document with whomever you choose and encourage your colleagues to subscribe. Sign up instructions are at the end of this e-newsletter.

## What's Going on at the Immunization Branch?

### Farewell, Beth!

If you have not heard by now, Immunization Branch Head Beth Rowe-West will be leaving us at the end of November to enjoy her much deserved retirement. Beth started at the Davidson County Health Department in 1983. She began working for the Immunization Branch in 1994, and has served as Branch Head since 1998. Click [here](#) to view a special tribute that the IB staff put together to honor her at our recent Immunization Conference. Even if you were there, there's MORE! Check out [this video](#) which portrays Beth's favorite memo!

We'll Miss You, Beth!

### Pharmacists Immunizing Role Expands

N.C. House Bill 832 passed and became law on July 3, 2013. Starting October 1, 2013, N.C. House Bill 832 allows pharmacists to expand their scope of immunizations. Pharmacists will be able to administer the following vaccines to individuals 18 years and older: Pneumococcal, Herpes Zoster, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis. They will also be able to immunize for influenza for individuals ages 14 and up (14-17 requires parental consent).

### 2013-2014 Flu Season

Fall typically marks the start of flu season. Stressing the importance of vaccinating against flu with your patients and vaccinating early are essential to getting through the season. This is also a good time to ensure that everyone in your practice has received their influenza vaccine as well. You can order free flu education materials from the Immunization Branch by completing [this form](#). In addition to materials on our website, be sure to check out the following influenza resources:

- [A Look at Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Guides for determining the number of doses of influenza vaccine to give to children ages 6 months through 8 years during the 2013-2014 influenza season](#)
- [How to Administer](#)
- [2013-2014 Influenza Presentations](#)

**Important!** Please be sure to order a sufficient amount of flu vaccine for your private patients because the Immunization Branch will no longer be able to expand coverage for state supplied flu vaccine beyond VCF eligible children.

## 2013 N.C. Immunization Conference

Thank you to everyone to made our 2013 N.C. Immunization Conference a success! Visit the [N.C. Immunization Conference page](#) on the Immunization Branch website to view the conference presentations.

## NCIP Provider Resource Guide – Now Online

A printable guide to everything you need to know about the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) and North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) is now online. Click [here](#) to view.

## Hallmark Immunization Greeting Card Program

**Attention Birthing Hospitals:** The Immunization Branch has received new greeting cards bearing Gov. Pat McCrory's signature. Click [here](#) to view the card. You may order cards for your hospital by filling out [this form](#). If you have any questions, please contact Michele Burton at (919) 707-5555.

## Coming Soon... Again!

The Immunization Branch will re-launch the Vaccinations Protect Generations Media Campaign this fall and winter. The campaign will feature television and print ads. Also, be on the lookout for our campaign ads on the highways courtesy of delivery trucks advertising across the state.

To view the commercials and print ads featured for our campaign, click [here](#).

## National Influenza Vaccination Week

National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 8-14. Stay tuned to the Immunization Branch website for materials and information.

## Are You In Compliance?

### New Storage & Handling Requirements

- Refrigerator temperature must be maintained between 2° C and 8° C (35° F and 46° F) with an optimum of 5° C (40° F).
- Do not borrow vaccine without prior approval from the NCIP.
- Order vaccine based on the actual need of eligible children served by the practice.

## Most Current VISs

As of October 1, the most recent versions of the [Vaccine Information Statements](#) (VIS) are as follows. News about Vaccine Information Statements can be found [here](#).

DTaP/DT	5/17/07	MMR	4/20/12
Hepatitis A	10/25/11	MMRV	5/21/10
Hepatitis B	2/2/12	PCV13	2/27/13
Hib	12/16/98	PPSV	10/6/09
HPV – Cervarix	5/3/11	Polio	11/8/11
HPV – Gardasil	5/17/13	Rabies	10/6/09
Influenza (inactive)	7/26/13	Rotavirus	8/26/13
Influenza (live)	7/26/13	Shingles	10/6/09
Japanese encephalitis	12/7/11	Td/Tdap	5/9/13
Meningococcal	10/14/11	Typhoid	5/29/12
Multi-vaccine (VIS) 11/16/12 (for 6 vaccines given to infants/children: DTaP, IPV, Hib, Hep B, PCV, RV)		Varicella	3/13/08
		Yellow fever	3/30/11

## News You Can Use

### New Vaccine App Available for iPhones

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has developed a free mobile app for iPhones called ***Vaccines on the Go: What You Should Know***. The app provides information about vaccines, the diseases they prevent and common vaccine safety concerns. The app also allows parents to develop a list of questions and save them along with other notes that they can use when talking with their healthcare provider. For more information about the app, click [here](#).

### Healthy People 2020 eLearning

[Healthy People eLearning](#) is an online educational resource designed to help students and health professionals learn how to reach the nation's health goals. All educational offerings feature a case study of a community working to achieve Healthy People 2020 objectives and provide free continuing education.

## Kudos

The **Brunswick County Health Department** was awarded the 2013 Samuel L. Katz, M.D. Excellence in Immunization Award at the N.C. Immunization Conference, for their dedication, collaboration and innovative outreach to vaccinate residents by taking vaccines to the community. The Katz Award recognizes an outstanding individual or agency in North Carolina who has developed innovative strategies, projects or programs to increase adult or childhood immunization coverage rates.

The Brunswick County Health Department attributes its success in vaccine outreach to annually distributing invitations to host on-site-clinics to businesses, churches, and housing developments, educating agency staff about needed vaccines and educating and taking vaccine to where people are located. They believe that if people understand the importance of being vaccinated and making vaccines easily accessible to them, they are more likely to be vaccinated.

In addition to taking vaccines into the community, the Brunswick County Health Department also takes vaccines into the schools. During the 2012-2013 school year, a total of 3,000 students received FluMist and 950 teachers/staff received a flu vaccination.

## Subscribe to Vax Facts

Please follow the instructions below to add yourself to our contact list.

Step One: Send an email to this address: [ncip.newsletter-subscribe@lists.ncmail.net](mailto:ncip.newsletter-subscribe@lists.ncmail.net). There's no need to include any special instructions in the subject line or in the body of the email message you send.

Step Two: Respond to the system-generated confirmation email. Read this email carefully and follow the included instructions to complete the sign-up process. Please note, you must respond to this system-generated confirmation email within three days. The easiest way to complete the sign-up process is by simply replying to the confirmation email.

Step Three: Look for a system-generated welcome message. Once you receive this message, you are signed up to receive Vax Facts.

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## Contact Information

N.C. Immunization Branch • 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, N.C. 27699

Phone: 919-707-5550 • Fax: 919-870-4824 • Website: [www.immunize.nc.gov](http://www.immunize.nc.gov)

Help Desk • Phone: 877-873-6247 • Fax: 800-544-3058 • Email: [ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov)

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